Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 19, 24 and 26, as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
retrieving a mission module with a vessel; and
installing the mission module in the vessel, the installed module operable to ~~functionally interact with~~ influence non-module resources of the vessel.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein installing the mission module comprises moving the module into the vessel via a ramp.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein installing the mission module comprises:
lowering a ramp from the vessel;
moving the module into the vessel via the ramp; and
raising the ramp into a ramp storage area disposed beneath the module.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein installing the mission module comprises installing the module in a bay of the vessel.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel comprises an aircraft.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel comprises a land vehicle.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel comprises a ship.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vessel comprise a space ship.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising maneuvering the vessel to the mission module before retrieving the module.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising maneuvering the mission module to the vessel before retrieving the module.

11.   (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
maneuvering a vessel toward a mission module such that a bay of the vessel captures the module; and

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coupling a system interface of the mission module to a system interface of the vessel.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the bay is disposed in the bow of the vessel and the maneuvering comprises moving the vessel forward.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the vessel is a multi-hull, water-born ship.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the coupling comprises lifting the mission module into the bay of the vessel.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the lifting comprises lifting the mission module with a crane system.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the coupling comprises lowering the vessel to the mission module.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the lowering comprises reducing the freeboard of the vessel with a ballasting system.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the coupling comprises attaching the vessel to the mission module via a ship-to-module interface.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

uncoupling a mission module from a bay of a vessel, the mission module operable to ~~functionally interact with~~ influence non-module resources of the vessel; and

removing the module from the bay.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising maneuvering the vessel away from the removed module.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising maneuvering the removed module away from the vessel.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the removing comprises sliding the mission module down a ramp.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the uncoupling comprises raising the vessel away from the mission module by increasing the freeboard of the vessel with a ballasting system.

24.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

removing a first mission module from a vessel; and

installing a second mission module in the vessel, the second mission module operable to ~~functionally interact with~~ <u>influence non-module resources of</u> the vessel.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein installing the second mission module comprises retrieving the second mission module from water while the vessel is floating in the water.

26.   (Currently Amended) A vessel comprising a frame operable to retrieve a module, the module operable to ~~functionally interact with~~ <u>influence non-module resources of</u> the vessel, the module further operable to be installed in the vessel.